RING
RING
RING
OKITENEMURU
KANATA HAS DISAPPEARED FROM SCHOOL?!
SIGH...
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED...
BEEP
すべて
カナタ
携帯
カナタ(2)
携帯
ナタ自宅
電話
ナタ
携帯
しずく
携帯
しずく(2)
携帯
カナタ
携帯
カナタ
YOU'RE OKAY, RIGHT,
KANATA?
HUH?

OKITENEMURU

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS NEW TYPE OF PARASITE?

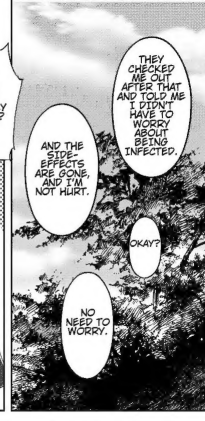
OH!
TOKIJI!
KANATA!
HEY, KANATA!
HUH? OH.
YEAH, I GUESS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!
WERE YOU OKAY?
YOU USED THAT POWER A WHOLE BUNCH, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT MEANS THE SIDE EFFECTS MUST HAVE BEEN NASTY.
Y-YOU GUESS?

C-COME ON, CALM DOWN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?!
THERE'S THAT INFECTIOUS DISEASE TO WORRY ABOUT.
KISSED, RIGHT?
YOU...
YOU AND AYUMI...
AND YOU...

GRIP
TOKIJI!

...
I'M FINE.

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
REALLY REALLY?
YEAH.
DROP IT MAN.
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

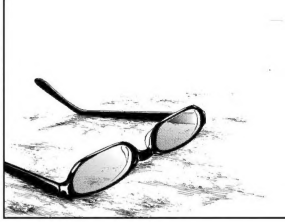

THEY CHECKED ME OUT AFTER THAT AND TOLD ME I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING INFECTED.
AND THE SIDE EFFECTS ARE GONE, AND I'M NOT HURT.
OKAY?
NO NEED TO WORRY.

ANYWAY, I'M TIRED. I'M GOING HOME TO SLEEP.
WHAT?!

WELL,
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
SIGH

THAT'S A PAIN IN THE BUTT. NO WAY.
WHAT?!
YOU NEED A DOCTOR FROM A BIG HOSPITAL TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
GRAB
NO!
I'M TAKING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, NO MATTER WHAT.

THUD
BANG
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?
!?
TH-
UGH
THAT HURT.
WHOOSH
CRACK



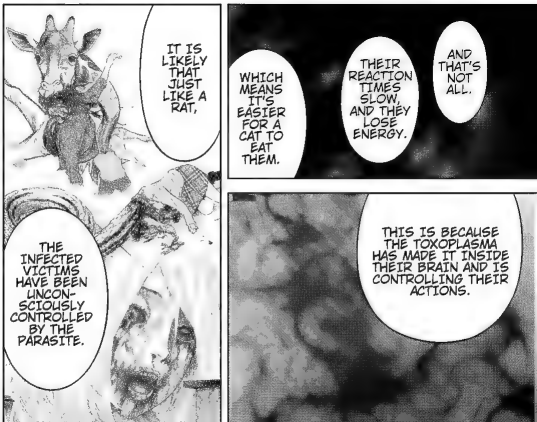
スタ
STEP
スタ
STEP

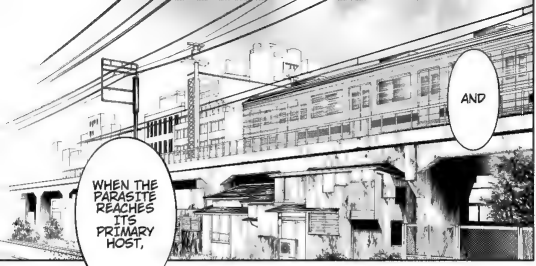
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PRIMARY HOST IS?
NO...
WHAT IS IT?
PUT SIMPLY,
IT'S THE ONE HOST A PARASITE CAN BREED IN.

CLATTER
CLATTER
SIP
TO A PARASITE, FINDING ITS PRIMARY HOST AND GIVING BIRTH
IS ITS GREATEST MISSION IN LIFE.
小春日西駅
AND TO REACH IT, IT MUST PASS THROUGH MANY HOSTS.
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE SAYING THIS NEW TYPE OF PARASITE HAS A PRIMARY HOST, AS WELL?
PROB-ABLY.
THEY'VE BEEN GOING FROM HOST TO HOST IN ORDER TO GIVE BIRTH,
SEARCHING FOR THE "PRIMARY HOST" THAT IS ENCODED IN THEIR DNA.

LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S A PARASITE CALLED TOXOPLASMA.
THEY CAN ONLY BREED IN A MEMBER OF THE FELINE FAMILY'S INTESTINE.
THUS, A FELINE IS THEIR PRIMARY HOST.
AND THEIR GREATEST TASK IN LIFE IS TO INFECT A CAT.
TOXOPLASMA WILL INFECT A RAT, WHICH IS THEN EATEN BY A CAT, TRANSFERRING THE PARASITE TO ITS NEW HOST.
AND SOME-THING VERY STRANGE HAPPENS IN THIS PROCESS.

GET THIS.
A TOXO-PLASMA-INFECTED RAT
WILL NO LONGER FEAR A CAT!


IT IS LIKELY THAT JUST LIKE A RAT,
THE INFECTED VICTIMS HAVE BEEN UNCON-SCIOUSLY CONTROLLED BY THE PARASITE.
WHICH MEANS IT'S EASIER FOR A CAT TO EAT THEM.
THEIR REACTION TIMES SLOW, AND THEY LOSE ENERGY.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
THIS IS BECAUSE THE TOXOPLASMA HAS MADE IT INSIDE THEIR BRAIN AND IS CONTROLLING THEIR ACTIONS.


AND
WHEN THE PARASITE REACHES ITS PRIMARY HOST,

...

IT WILL CONTROL THE HOST

INTO GOING TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR IT TO BREED.

YES...
JUST LIKE THE NEEDLE WORM CONTROLS ITS MANTIS HOST.

THE OKITENEMURU IS PROBABLY ACTING IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY NATURAL MANNER, SO THAT NO ONE WILL INTERFERE WITH IT.
AND FORCES IT TO ENTER THE WATER WHICH WILL PROVE FATAL FOR IT.

THE PARASITE'S TRUE GOAL IS...
IN OTHER WORDS,

TO FIND THE
OKITE-NEMURU.

JUMP
LAND

BEEP BEEP
STEP
STEP

SCREEEECH
KA-CHUNK
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT.
PROB-ABLY...
CREEK

CLANG

WHO MADE
THIS AWFUL NEW PARA-SITE,
AND WHY?
I'LL FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!